

June 1, 2010

1400 CST

Water Quality Protection Division



Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico Region 6 Update

Subject: **Water Quality Division Update # 22**
 Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Date: June 1, 2010

Reporting Period: June 1, 2010 1300 – June 2, 2010 1300

Situation Status:

Nearshore Surface Oil Forecast Deepwater Horizon MC252

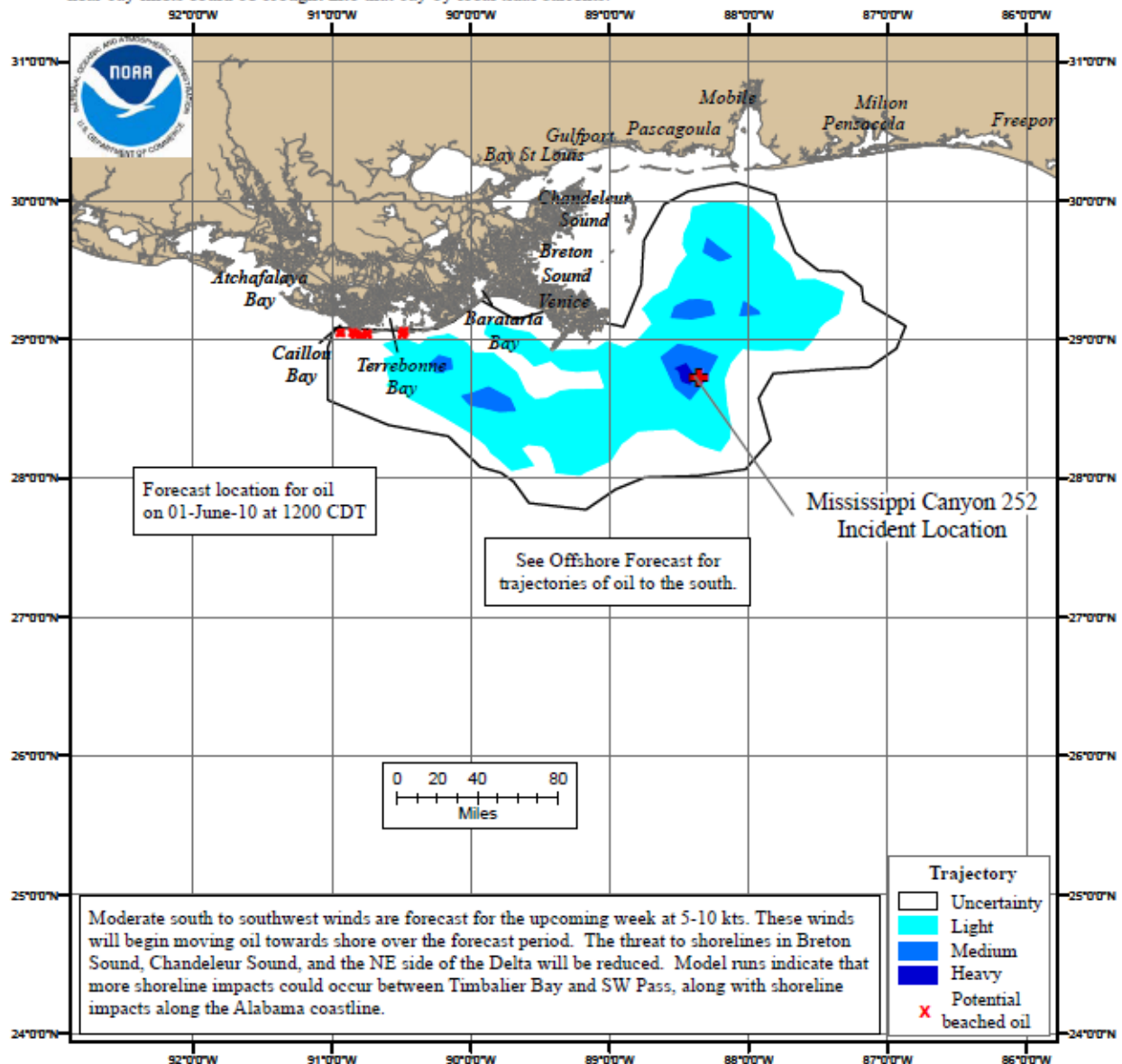
NOAA/NOS/OR&R

Nearshore

Estimate for: 1200 CDT, Tuesday, 6/01/10

Date Prepared: 2100 CDT, Monday, 5/31/10

This forecast is based on the NWS spot forecast from Monday, May 31 PM. Currents were obtained from several models (NOAA Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Shelf/USF, NAVO/NRL) and HFR measurements. The model was initialized from Sunday and Monday satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and Monday overflight observations. The leading edge may contain tarballs that are not readily observable from the imagery (hence not included in the model initialization). Oil near bay inlets could be brought into that bay by local tidal currents.



Offshore Surface Oil Forecast Deepwater Horizon MC252

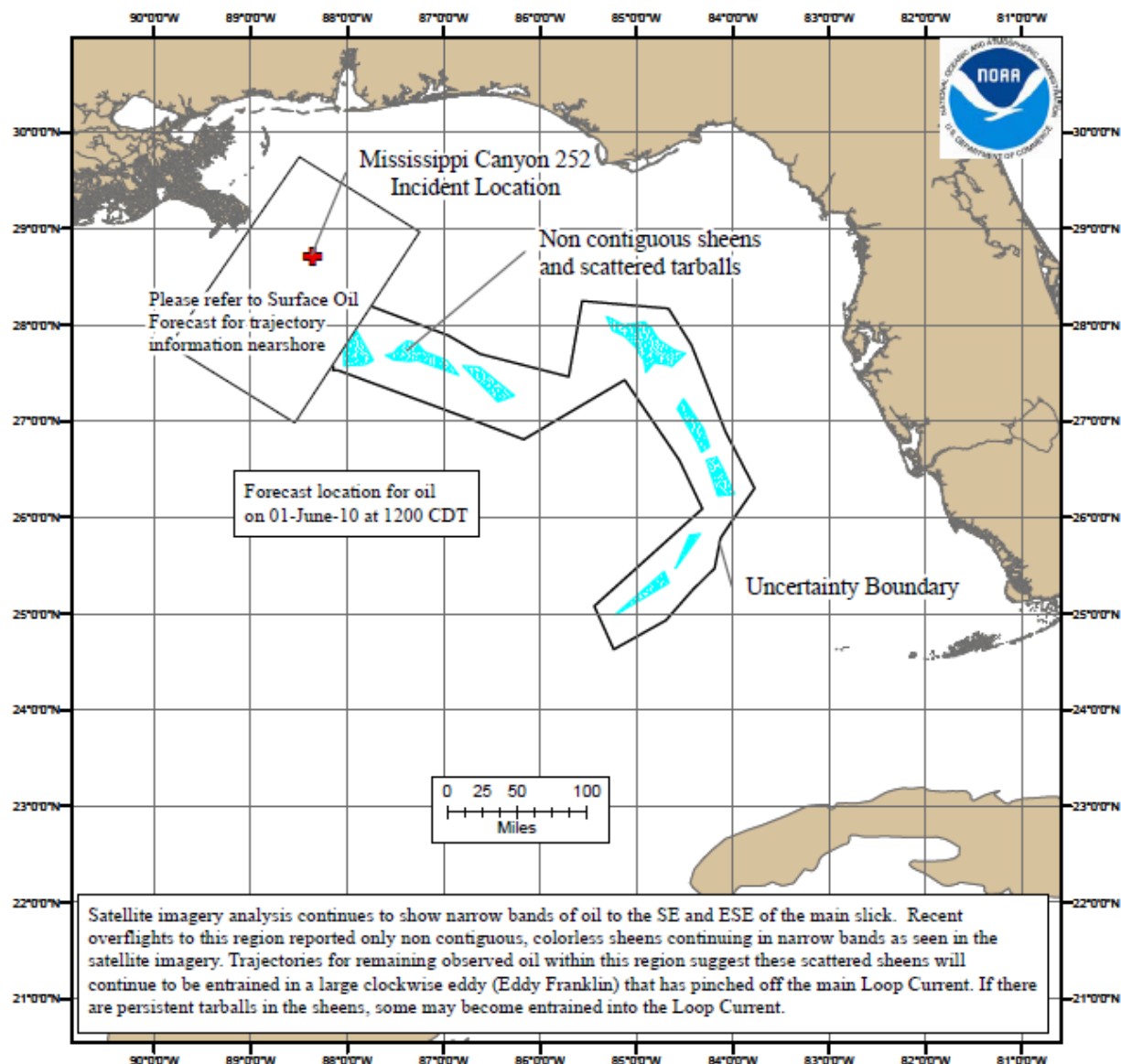
NOAA/NOS/OR&R

Offshore

Estimate for: 1200 CDT, Tuesday, 6/01/10

Date Prepared: 1900 CDT, Monday, 5/31/10

Currents were obtained from three models: NOAA Gulf of Mexico, NavO/NCOM, and NRL/IASNFS. Each includes Loop Current dynamics. Gulf wide winds were obtained from the gridded NCEP product. The model was initialized from Sunday/Monday satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS). The leading edge may contain tarballs that are not readily observable from the imagery (hence not included in the model initialization).



Monitoring and Assessment

- Continuing to coordinate with HQ (Office of Water) as they finalize the screening levels under development for use in evaluating water and sediment quality monitoring results and as they develop a data analysis plan.
- Continuing to coordinate with the REOC Environmental Unit on the review of incoming water quality monitoring data, including results received from recently collected oil sample data (e.g., source oil, oil and debris, tarball, and mousse-like consistency oil samples).
- A staff member from the Monitoring and Watershed Assessment Section is conducting water quality monitoring and sampling activities and coordinating with NOAA personnel on-board the NOAA vessel *Thomas Jefferson* this week.
- Attending regular meetings and calls with Region 4, HQ, & REOC.

Drinking Water

- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen and are not projected to be impacted.
- EPA Region 6 is providing the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) daily situation report as well as data summaries as they become available.
- EPA Region 6 continues to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.

Coastal Programs

Louisiana Large-Scale Coastal Barrier Plan:

- OW, Region 6, and Corps conference calls today and a meeting in New Orleans to be attended by several staff and managers regarding the emergency Corps permit issued May 27, 2010, for portions of the State's sand berm plan. Extensive coordination is being conducted regarding the associated borrow sites, stockpile areas, and project success criteria. Ongoing coordination regarding the State's full application and engineering drawings, due 30 days hence.

Corps Emergency Authorizations for Coastal Protection Features:

- The Corps has coordinated with Region 6 and OW on a continuing series of emergency authorization requests for incremental work to install booms, sand bags, tiger dams, concrete blocks, and similar structures in the Chandeleur Sound and Barataria Bay. Regional staff members have been supporting responses by OW and clarification has been requested on the threshold for determining Regional or OW lead on future requests.

OW Ecological Impact Analyses:

- Coastal Section Chief met with OW and SCAT in Houma.

Corps Navigation Maintenance Dredging:

- The oil spill is not affecting dredging operations or navigation in the Mississippi River, Southwest Pass (SWP) but, according to the Corps, oil continues to accumulate in the lower portions of South Pass and Pass a Loutre (a borrow site cleared under the Corps' emergency authorization for the LA berm application).
- Region 6, Region 4, and OW continue to coordinate on various aspects of navigation dredged material management and ocean dumping. Key topics include testing protocols and reference test site issues as they relate to many different Corps of Engineers' Gulf of Mexico navigation channel maintenance in areas of likely oil contamination.
- A decision is pending by a BP contractor, Entrix, on a Corps request (backed by rationale provided by Regional staff) for including the EPA-designated SW Pass Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) in a larger request to drag sorbent material in navigation channels to see if oil is present in the lower portions of the water column or on the sediment surface.
- Ongoing analyses regarding marsh remediation efforts and long-term coastal habitat impacts

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

- No changes since Thursday 5-27-2010.

Data Management – Mapping Efforts

- Produced one map of sites that were sampled for toxic sediments in coastal Louisiana.

NPDES

- Working with HQ and Region staff on the ability/advisability to use the NPDES OCS General Permit to help implement the offshore drilling moratorium.
- Continue to coordinate, as required, with 6WQ, 6EN, 6RC, and HQ staff on NPDES permitting and enforcement issues.
- NPDES Permits and TMDL Branch continues to be available to provide technical assistance as needed.